In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

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1. [Currently amended] A method for providing procurement services to a plurality of customer companies, comprising the steps of:

establishing <u>in a computer database</u> a user profile for each person authorized by a customer company to access said procurement services;
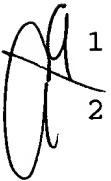
associating each said company with a company group of related companies;
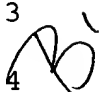
said user profile specifying for each said user a user company and company group;

providing for each procurement resource to be shared among said users a resource profile <u>in a computer database</u> specifying for each resource those said companies to have access to said procurement resource; and

16   responsive to said user profile and said resource

17   profiles, controlling user access to said procurement

18   resources.

1   2.   [Original] The method of claim 1, further comprising

2   the step of providing said procurement resources in a front-

3   end catalog and requisition server.

1   3.   [Original] The method of claim 2, further comprising

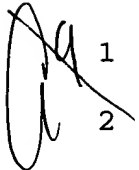2   the steps of:

3   receiving a user request from a first client browser to

4   log in to said front-end server;

5   responsive to said request, providing a user interface

6   at said client browser only to procurement resources

7   authorized by said user profile and said resource

8   profiles.

1   4.   [Original] The method of claim 2, further comprising

2   the steps of:

3   receiving requests from a plurality of users authorized

4   by different company groups to enter a requisition to a

5   vendor with respect to the same catalog or contract

6   resource; and

7   generating separate purchase orders to said vendor with

8   respect to requisitions originating with users from

9   each said company group.

1   5.   [Original]   The method of claim 4, further comprising

2   the steps of:

     leveraging procurement buys from a plurality of company

4   groups with respect to the same volume specific

5   contract for goods or services.

1   6.   [Original]   The method of claim 2, further comprising

2   the steps of:

3   allowing said user to apply procurement charges to

4   charge centers only within his company group.

1   7.   [Original]   The method of claim 3, said procurement

2   resources including a vendor catalog.

1   8.   [Original]   The method of claim 3, said procurement

2   resources including a blanket order procurement contract for

3   goods or services.

1   9.   [Original]   The method of claim 3, said procurement

2   resources including a user profile table.

1   10.   [Original]   The method of claim 3, said procurement

2   resources including costs centers.

1   11.   [Original]   The method of claim 3, said procurement

2   resources including accounting general ledger codes with

3   company group specific accounting rules and defaults.

1   12.   [Original]   System for providing procurement services

2   to a plurality of customer companies, comprising:

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3   a front end server;

4   a user profile for each person authorized by a customer

5   company to access said procurement services;

6   each said company associated with a company group of

7   related companies;

8   said user profile specifying for each said user a user

9   company and company group;

10   a plurality of procurement resources to be shared among

11   said users;

12   a resource profile for each said procurement resource

13   specifying those said companies to have access to said

14   procurement resource; and

15   said user profile and said resource profiles for

16   controlling user access to said procurement resources.

1   13. [Original] The system of claim 12, said procurement

2   resources further comprising:

3   vendor catalog;

4   a blanket order procurement contract for goods or
5   services; and

6   a table of user profiles.

1   14.   [Original]   The system of claim 12, said procurement
2   resources further comprising:

3   costs centers; and

4   accounting general ledger codes with company group
5   specific accounting rules and defaults.

1   15.   [Original]   A program storage device readable by a
2   machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions
3   executable by a machine to perform method steps for
4   providing procurement services to a plurality of customer
5   companies, said method steps comprising:

6   establishing a user profile for each person authorized

7   by a customer company to access said procurement

8   services;

9   associating each said company with a company group of

10   related companies;

11   said user profile specifying for each said user a user

12   company and company group;

13   providing for each procurement resource to be shared

14   among said users a resource profile specifying for each

15   resource those said companies to have access to said

16   procurement resource; and

17   responsive to said user profile and said resource

18   profiles, controlling user access to said procurement

19   resources.

1   16.   [Original]   The program storage device of claim 15,

2   said method steps further comprising providing said

3   procurement resources in a front-end catalog and requisition

4   server.

1   17.   [Original]   The program storage device of claim 16,
2   said method steps further comprising the steps of:

3   receiving a user request from a first client browser to
4   log in to said front-end server;

5   responsive to said request, providing a user interface
6   at said client browser only to procurement resources
7   authorized by said user profile and said resource
8   profiles.

1   18.   [Original]   The program storage device of claim 16,
2   said method steps further comprising the steps of:

3   receiving requests from a plurality of users authorized
4   by different company groups to enter a requisition to a
5   vendor with respect to the same catalog or contract
6   resource; and

7   generating separate purchase orders to said vendor with
8   respect to requisitions originating with users from
9   each said company group.

1 19. [Original] The program storage device of claim 18, said

2 method steps further comprising the steps of:

3   leveraging procurement buys from a plurality of company

4   groups with respect to the same volume specific

5   contract for goods or services.

1 20. [Original] The program storage device of claim 16,

2 said method steps further comprising the steps of:

3   allowing said user to apply procurement charges to

4   charge centers only within his company group.

1 21. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,

2 said procurement resources including a vendor catalog.

1 22. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,

2 said procurement resources including a blanket order

3 procurement contract for goods or services.

1   23.   [Original]   The program storage device of claim 17,

2   said procurement resources including a user profile table.

1   24.   [Original]   The program storage device of claim 17,

2   said procurement resources including costs centers.

1   25.   [Original]   The program storage device of claim 17,

2   said procurement resources including accounting general

3   ledger codes with company group specific accounting rules

4   and defaults.

1   26.   [Original]   A computer program product or computer

2   program element for providing procurement services to a

3   plurality of customer companies according to method steps

4   comprising:

5   establishing a user profile for each person authorized

6   by a customer company to access said procurement

7   services;

8   associating each said company with a company group of

9   related companies;

10   said user profile specifying for each said user a user
11   company and company group;

12   providing for each procurement resource to be shared
13   among said users a resource profile specifying for each
14   resource those said companies to have access to said
15   procurement resource; and

16   responsive to said user profile and said resource
17   profiles, controlling user access to said procurement
18   resources.